Wellington Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year 1942.

By R. DE VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON WEEKLY NEWS

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1942.

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Statistics for the Year 1942.

Area (in Acres)	37,911
Estimate of Resident Population	8,536
Census Population, 1931	7,525
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books, Dec. 31st, 1942	2,197
Rateable Value—31st Dec., 1942	£30,136

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st Dec., 1942 £134 19s. 6d.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

Live Births:—

	Total	*M.*	*F.*
Legitimate	104	54	50
Illegitimate	6	5	1
	110	59	51

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 12.88

Still Births—Total .. 3.

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births .. 26.46

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 0.35

Deaths—Total .. 92.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 10.77

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

	Deaths	*Rates per 1,000 Births*
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes ..	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age— Total .. 3.

Death Rate of all Infants per 1,000 Live Births .. 27.27

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	—

		Rates for England and Wales as a whole, per 1,000 Civilian Population.
Live Births	15.8	,, ,, ,,
Still Births	0.54	,, ,, ,,
Deaths, all causes	11.6	,, ,, ,,
Maternal Mortality, all causes	2.01	*per* 1,000 *Total Births*
Infant Mortality	4.09	,, ,, ,,
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	5.2	,, ,, ,,

Causes of Death During 1942.

Cause of Death	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	3	5
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	1	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	—	—	—
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Cancer of breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	6	3	9
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	6	4	10
Heart disease	10	7	17
Other disease of the circulatory system	1	1	2
Bronchitis	6	1	7
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Other respiratory disease	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other digestive disease	3	1	4
Nephritis	2	2	4
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	—	1
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	—	—	—
Suicide	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents	2	—	2
Other violent causes	1	2	3
All other causes	6	6	12
All causes—Total	52	40	92

Infant Mortality During 1942.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

A review of the facilities to be obtained is contained in the Report for 1938. The area being one of the Reception Districts for Evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme, provision is made at Avondale Sick Bay, in Wellington, for the reception of cases of Impetigo and Scabies, etc.

Up to December 31st, 1942, the number of evacuees remaining in the district was:—

Unaccompanied children	251
Mothers (77) with children (146) ..	223
Teachers, Helpers, etc.	9
Other Adults, aged and infirm, etc. ..	89
Unofficial Evacuees (about)	146
Total	718

This total of 718 may be compared with 1308 during 1941 and 2,299 during 1940.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Circular 2773 from the Ministry of Health states that no reference should be made to activities in connection with wartime extensions of water supply or sewerage or other public utility undertakings.

The areas in which refuse collection is undertaken by the Council are set out in the Report for 1938.

During 1942 the following materials have been salvaged by the Council and Toc H, a total weight of 203 tons 12 cwt.

	District Council		Toc H.	
	Tons.	Cwt.	Tons.	Cwt.
Waste Paper	54	15½	39	3
Rags, sacking, etc. ..	4	5	1	12
Iron	60	10	7	2
Bones	5	2	1	9
Tins (flattened) ..	21	1	—	—
Other Metals (non-ferrous)	—	19½	—	—
Rubber	6	3	1	10
	152	16	50	16

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is as follows:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	76
Dwelling-houses reinspected	102
Slaughter-houses	14
Bakehouses	10
*Disinfection of Premises	48
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	23
Miscellaneous Nuisances	91
Factories and Workshops	5

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	46
Statutory Notices	7

Result of Notices served:—

Complied with	33
In hand	19

* Includes 20 for Scabies, 1 for fleas and 1 for bugs.

Housing.

There have been two cases of overcrowding brought to light during 1942 and these have been abated. Overcrowding is not serious in this district owing to evacuees returning to their homes. It is still impossible to obtain definite figures on this point.

About 96 houses in confirmed Clearance Areas have not been demolished. Some 25 of these have been requisitioned by the Council to house evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme: repairs to these dwellings are frequent, the expense being borne by the Scheme. Several need considerable expenditure if they are to remain inhabited by evacuees.

During 1942 only two dwellings have been dealt with under Regulation 68A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—The usual routine work has been carried out in inspecting Farms and Dairies and taking milk samples. The reduction in the number of milk samples taken, 15 against 89 in the previous year, has been due to the presence of Foot and Mouth Disease in the district. The County Laboratory results of the bacteriological examination of the samples is as follows:—

Designation.	*No. of Samples taken.*	*No. found satisfactory*	*No. found unsatisfactory*
Tuberculin Tested	4	3	1
Accredited	7	6	1
Pasteurised	1	1	—
Examined for tubercle bacilli	3	3	—
Totals ..	15	13	2

The following Milk Licences are in force in the district:—

Tuberculin Tested, 8; Accredited, 10; Supplementary for the retail of Pasteurised Milk within the district, 1.

The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Register shows:—

Number of Producers on the Register 196

Number of Distributors divided as follows:—

Distributors only .. .. nil

Distributors who are also Producers .. 76

Meat Supply.—There are 8 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the district, but owing to the present emergency no regular slaughtering is carried out in them; Slaughtering and Meat Inspection are carried out instead in Taunton Borough and Rural Districts. Owing to injuries six animals were slaughtered in the local slaughter-houses. Two hundred and thirty pounds of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption and sent to the Central Depot in Taunton for disposal. In addition 257 tins of canned meat were condemned as unfit for human food and disposed of in the right quarters according to present war-time regulations.

Bakehouses.—There are 9 in the district and 10 inspections were made of them.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The following gives the number of notifications for notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, and the rates per 1,000 of the civilian population compared with similar rates for England and Wales as a whole.

Disease.	*No. of Notifications*	*Rates per* 1,000 *Civilian Population.* *Wellington R.D.*	*E. & W.*
Scarlet Fever	9	1.05	2.19
Diphtheria	2	0.23	1.05
Whooping Cough	8	0.93	1.73
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	0.23	0.14
Pneumonia	4	0.46	1.07
Paratyphoid "B"	1	0.11	0.01
Erysipelas	1	0.11	0.30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.—During the year ending 31st Dec., 1942, 131 children of school age and 106 children of pre-school age have been immunised against Diphtheria.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality During 1942.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		*Non-Respiratory.*		*Respiratory.*		*Non-Respiratory.*	
Age Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	4	2	2	1	2	3	—	1

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade, or under Sec. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

TABULATED STATEMENT FOR 1942.

Constituent Authorities	Admitted	Brought forward, 1/1/42	Remaining, 31/12/42	Discharged	Died	Scarlet Fever	S.F. & Diphtheria	Diphtheria	Mumps	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	C.S.M. "Carrier"	Tubercular Meningitis	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	Tonsilitis.	Chichen Pox.	Septic Abortion	Puerperal Sepsis.	Nursing Mothers	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Contact Infants	Para Typhoid "B"	Polio Myelitis	Enteritis	Foreign Body in Larynx	Vincent's Angina	Cerebral Haemorrhage	Scabies	Dysentery	Otorrhoea	Appendicitis	Rheumatism	Influenza	Patient Days.
Taunton Borough	115	3	20	96	2	82	1	10	–	2	–	1	–	2	–	8	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	3392
Wellington U.D.C.	18	3	4	17	–	15	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	694
Taunton Rural	17	2	1	18	–	6	–	3	1	2	–	–	2	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	537
Wellington R.D.C.	17	1	2	15	1	8	–	2	–	1	–	1	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	368
Bridgwater Rural	18	2	1	19	–	16	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	391
Dulverton Rural	3	–	–	3	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	81
Other Authorities	4	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	131
War Office	6	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	148
Maternity and Child Welfare																																			
Somerset C. C.	51	2	3	50	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	36	2	6	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1320
Taunton Corpn.	6	–	–	5	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	165
Private Case	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	17
Staff	3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	45
	259	13	31	237	4	130	1	15	4	10	1	2	4	5	2	11	2	3	42	2	6	4	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	7289

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD for the Year ended 31st December, 1942.

NOTES.

Hospital administration during the past year has been extremely difficult owing to the shortage of Nursing and Domestic Staffs and the employment of non-resident women. The Matron has overcome many difficulties and with her usual perseverance and energy, maintained a high standard of work in the Hospital so that the patients have not suffered. The number of Nursing Staff days was 4989, the lowest on record even during the years when half the work was done at the Hospital. The Nursing Staff has throughout the year kept stable at about 2/3rds of the normal number.

The Domestic Staff has consisted of 4 resident and 6 non-resident women, which is about 25% less than the normal requirements.

The Laundry Staff has remained stationary, four non-resident women being employed. By careful management, the Matron has been able to save 2 to 3 tons of fuel monthly by getting the laundry work completed in four days per week, despite the fact that during the year the Board agreed after representations from the County Medical Officer of Health, to undertake the whole of the disinfecting and laundry from Belmont Sick Bay, and the sterilizing of dressings, etc., from the Emergency Unit Maternity Home at Tetton House, Kingston. This fuel saving has been a very creditable performance.

The outdoor staff of two men remains normal, but their work, too, has been augmented owing to the increased use of the Steam Disinfector, which takes up one man's whole time for two to three days a week.

SANATORIUM.

Admissions:	Male	10
	Females	20
	Total	30
Discharged:	Males	4
	Females ..	15
	Total	19
Deaths:	Males	6
	Females	5
	Total	11

Total patient days=6690.

The beds have been kept full throughout the year.

The deaths during 1942 have been the lowest on record.

The extra work entailed by using the Isolation Hospital Theatre for Artificial Pneumo-thorax refills continues and 83 refills have been administered and the Theatre used almost weekly.

R. DE V. KING,
Medical Superintendent.

March, 1943. Isolation Hospital, Cheddon Road, Taunton.